

### **13th ANNUAL PARK SUMMIT SET FOR MAY 14**

*Annual gathering hosted by Department of Parks and Recreation is themed “Pursuing the Vision: What’s Next for Parks?” Keynote speaker: Stephanie Stephens, executive director of the California Park and Recreation Society.*

Hundreds of park and recreation professionals, representatives of nonprofit organizations and other advocates for parks, natural areas and open space will gather May 14 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum for the 13th Annual Park Summit.

Hosted by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, the yearly gathering features informative and dynamic workshops, as well as networking opportunities that help participants form valuable partnerships. In 2015, the Summit theme is “Pursuing the Vision: What’s Next for Parks?” Activities will be focused on helping attendees form a vision for the future of parks and recreation, and giving them the tools to implement it.

Several exciting workshops are planned around that theme, including:

- The Future of Parks... What Will You Need?
- The Financing Puzzle: Building on the General Fund
- Clever Collaborations
- Social Media... #What’sNEXT
- Social Landscapes: The Changing Faces of Recreation
- Hire, Don’t Fire: Successful Recruitment and Retention
- Placemaking: Historical Inspiration and Contemporary Expression
- The Power of Play: Transforming the Mind, Body and Human Spirit

This year’s keynote speaker is Stephanie Stephens, the new executive director of the California Park and Recreation Society. A statewide organization, its main purpose is to promote the park and recreation profession in California.

“We have an exciting lineup in store for the 13th Annual Park Summit,” said Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney. “Parks are central to maintaining quality-of-life in our communities – and as a growing body of evidence confirms the physical and psychological benefits of outdoor recreation, parks will play an even greater role in the years and decades to come. Planning for that future is essential to our ability to serve effectively. The Park Summit is an indispensable forum for sharing knowledge, ideas and resources that will help us all continue to meet the challenge of demonstrating that ‘Parks Make Life Better!’”

Registration is only \$22 per person — which includes admission to the Summit, continental breakfast, lunch and a complimentary tram tour of the beautiful Arboretum grounds.

The registration deadline is May 7. Registration is available online at <http://reservations.lacounty.gov/reservations/product.asp>